GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Home Department - Public Servants – Disaster Response and Fire Services Department – Allegation of corruption against Sri Munduri Srihari Jagannadh, District Fire Officer, on deputation to Fire Prevention Wing, GVMC, Visakhapatnam – Trapped on 08-07-2015 – Sanction of prosecution – Orders – Issued.

HOME (SC.B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 59 **Dated: 12-04-2017**

ORDER:

Whereas Munduri Srihari Jagannadh worked as District Fire Officer, on deputation to Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam from 15.09.2013 to 08.07.2015 and by virtue of the post held by him, falls under the category of public servant as defined under section 2 (c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988.

2. And whereas, Sri Urlam Sasikumar is working as computer Faculty in Milk Producers Employees Vidyapeeth English Medium School (MPEVEM High School), Sheelanagar, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam. The said school is having valid "Fire No-Objection Certificate" issued by the District Fire Officer, Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam in the year 2011. The same is required to be renewed. As such, on the instructions of Correspondent of the school, the Head Master, Sri A. Srinivasa Rao made an Application dt 09.12.2014, before Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation. Sri Urlam Sasikumar submitted the said application at 'C' Section and met the District Fire Officer, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam Sri Munduri Srihari Jagannadh and requested to do the needful but he demanded a bribe of Rs.35,000/- for renewal of No Objection Certificate. Sri Urlam Sasikumar went away and informed the same to the Head Master. As no information was received, on the instructions of the Head Master, Sri Sasikumar again approached the Dist Fire Officer, Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh, in the first week of June, 2015 and informed him that the Education Department authorities are pressurizing to submit the Fire No Objection Certificate for renewal of recognition of the school. The District Fire Officer Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh asked him to again apply by enclosing a banker's cheque of Rs.10,000/-, and so saying he demanded a bribe of Rs.35,000/-, to renew the Fire No Objection Certificate. Accordingly, vide application dated 23.05.2015, he applied for renewal of Fire No Objection Certificate, by enclosing the Banker's cheque of Rs.10,000/- and submitted in 'C' Section on 02.07.2015 and obtained acknowledgement. Later, he met Sri M.Srihari Jagannadh, District Fire Officer on 07.07.2015 evening and informed about the submission of application as instructed by him. The District Fire Officer Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh, reiterated his demand of bribe for Rs. 35,000/- to process the application and issue of renewed "Fire No Objection Certificate" to the school. Though, Sri Urlam Sasikumar informed him that the school is running with the funds contributed by farmers/milk producers of Visakha Dairy and requested for issue of NOC, Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh, District Fire Officer did not consider his request and reiterated his demand and asked to give the bribe amount of Rs.35,000/- on 08.07.2015 evening in his office either to him or to a person indicated by him. And whereas, Sri Urlam Sasikumar informed the same to the Headmaster and as per his advice, he gave a report to the Dy. Supdt. of Police, Anti Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam against the District Fire Officer, Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam.

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3. After following due procedure, the DSP, ACB, Visakhapatnam registered the report as a case in Cr.No.13/RCT-VSP/2015 U/s 7 of PC Act, 1988 of ACB, Visakhapatnam Range, Visakhapatnam on 08.07.2015 at 15.00 hours and took up investigation.

4. And whereas, during trap proceedings on 08-07-2015 at 19.05 hrs, Sri M.Srihari Jagannadh, District Fire Officer, Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam was trapped in his office when he further demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.35,000/-, from Sri Urlam Sasikumar, through his private assistant Sri Landa Taraka Ramakrishna at his office. The tainted currency was recovered from right side trouser pocket of Sri Landa Taraka Ramakrishna. When the denomination and serial numbers of the said currency notes were compared with the denomination and serial numbers of the currency notes mentioned in pre-trap proceedings, they tallied. The fingers of both the hands of Sri Landa Taraka Ramakrishna and the inner lining of his right side trouser pocket, which came in contact with tainted currency, when subjected to chemical test, yielded positive result. The Dy. Supdt. of Police seized the bribe amount of Rs.35,000/-, connected records, trouser of Sri Landa Taraka Rama Krishna and resultant solutions. He prepared rough sketch of scene of offence.

5. And whereas, the aforesaid acts of Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh, District Fire Officer, Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam constitute offences punishable under sections 7, 13(2) r/w sections 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988).

6. And whereas the Government being the competent authority to remove Sri M. Srihari Jagannath, District Fire Officer, Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam from his service after fully and carefully examining the material viz., copy of FIR, copies of statements of witnesses, copies of documents, explanation of Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh and final report of Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau etc. placed before them in regard to the said allegation and circumstances of the case, consider that Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh, District Fire Officer, Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam should be prosecuted in a court of law for the aforesaid offences.

7. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of the sub section (1) of Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988), Government hereby accord sanction to prosecute Sri M. Srihari Jagannadh, District Fire Officer, Fire Prevention Wing, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam for the aforesaid offences, punishable under sections 7 & 13(2) read with section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988) and for any other cognizable offences punishable under any provisions of law for the time being in force in respect of the aforesaid acts and for taking cognizance of the said offences by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

A.R. ANURADHA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director General,
Anti-Corruption Bureau,
Andhra Pradesh,
Vijayawada.
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